

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Canceled).
2. (Currently Amended) A hinge for connecting a hood, ~~especially an engine hood~~, to a vehicle body, having a least one hinge carrier arranged on the vehicle body, at least one hinge arm arranged on the hood and at least one connecting part for the pivotable connection of the hinge arm to the hinge carrier, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the hinge is configured so that the connection of the hinge arm to the hinge carrier is released in the event of an accident by removal and/or destruction of the connecting part due to forces acting in a direction of a pivot axis of the hinge.
3. (Currently Amended) The hinge as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the connecting part is designed as an explosive bolt or shear bolt.
4. (Currently Amended) The hinge as claimed in claim 2, wherein ~~or 3, characterized in that~~ the connecting part is guided in at least one socket on the hinge arm and in at least one socket on the hinge carrier and, in the event of an accident, is removed from at least one socket.
5. (Currently Amended) The hinge as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the connecting part is designed as a bolt which is pulled out of at least one of the sockets.
6. (Currently Amended) The hinge as claimed in claim 4, wherein ~~or 5, characterized in that~~ at least one ~~actuating means~~ actuating device is provided for actuating the connecting part in the event of an accident.
7. (Currently Amended) The hinge as claimed in claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~actuating means~~ actuating device comprises a pyrotechnic element.

8. (Currently Amended) The hinge as claimed in claim 6, ~~wherein or 7, characterized in that the actuating means~~ actuating device is an inflatable airbag and/or a gas-conducting element.
9. (Currently Amended) The hinge as claimed in claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the airbag and/or the gas-conducting element acts on the connecting part via a least one transmission element.
10. (Currently Amended) The hinge as claimed in claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the transmission element is designed as a lever.
11. (Currently Amended) The hinge as claimed in claim 9, wherein ~~one of claims 8 to 10, characterized in that~~, on filling with gas, the airbag and/or the gas-conducting element, owing to its expansion, exerts a push or a pull on the connecting part and/or the transmission element.
12. (Currently Amended) The hinge as claimed in claim 2, wherein ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the connecting part is of special design, and~~ the hinge carrier has at least one socket which corresponds with the connecting part and is configured to release ~~designed in such a manner that it releases~~ the connecting part in the event of an accident.
13. (Currently Amended) The hinge as claimed in claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the hinge carrier has at least one moveable hinge carrier part which, in the event of an accident, is moved in relation to at least one fixed hinge carrier part in such a manner that the connecting part accommodated therein comes free.
14. (Currently Amended) The hinge as claimed in claim 2, wherein ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ the hinge arm has a deformation region for the specific deformation of the hinge arm in the event of an accident.
15. (Currently Amended) The hinge as claimed in claim 14, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the connecting part is disengaged from the hinge carrier by deformation of the hinge arm.

16. (Currently Amended) The hinge as claimed in claim 2, wherein one of the preceding claims, characterized in that at least one ~~limiting means~~ limiting device is arranged for limiting the relative movement between the hinge carrier and hinge arm.

17. (Currently Amended) The hinge as claimed in claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~limiting means~~ limiting device is a rebound strap and/or a lever guided in a coulisse.

18. (Currently Amended) An airbag for opening a hood connected by a hinge to a vehicle body, especially an engine hood, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the airbag is configured to release ~~designed in such a manner that it releases~~ the hood from the vehicle body when deployed in the region of the hinge.

19. (Currently Amended) The airbag as claimed in claim 18, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein airbag regions are arranged directly on the hinge.

20. (Currently Amended) The airbag as claimed in claim 19, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the airbag, when deployed, is first of all deployed in the regions arranged on the hinge.

21. (Currently Amended) The airbag as claimed in claim 19, wherein ~~or 20, characterized in that~~ a gas-conducting system, in particular a gas lance, is arranged in the interior of the airbag, said lance conducting the gas used for the deployment into the airbag regions arranged on the hinge.